Trinity Parish of Newton Centre

Episcopal

World War I Remembrance

Our WWI Memorial

Robert Casson, a long-time vestryman and architectural wood designer, created the World War I memorial at the back of our sanctuary. Mr. Casson was a gifted man responsible for all the sculpture and woodwork in our church. In his beautiful memorial, he lists the six men who did not return from the Great War. Listed on eight separate panels are fifty-one men who served and survived. A closer look into those fifty-one names reveals his son, Charles P. Casson.

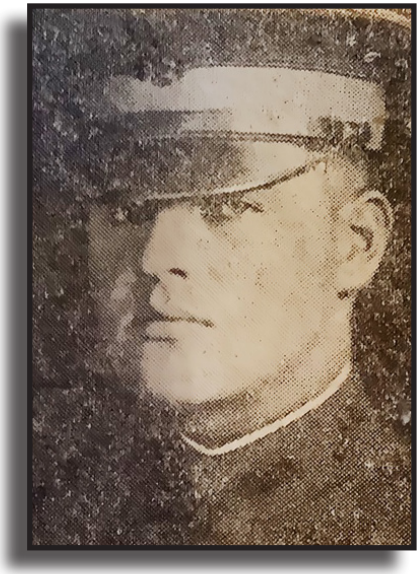
Casson's beautiful memorial not only honors those who served, but is also a quiet remembrance of a congregation that lived through the turbulent years of war with all the strength they could muster.

The Newton South Allies Relief Association, headquartered in Trinity Parish House throughout the war, was a group of women sending supplies to the wounded in France. One of the association's presidents, Marion Underhill, was a parishioner and the mother of two brothers listed as serving in the conflict.

Compounded by the onslaught of war was the great influenza epidemic of 1918. Of our six young men who died, two of them - George Stewart Huggard and Edward Augustus Wight- were felled by that illness. Death by that epidemic was a common occurrence in 1918.

A deeper look into our memorial shows more than names carved in wood. It shows young men raised in homes close to where we live. They went to the same high schools. They worshiped in these same pews. And our congregation prayed fervently for them in this sanctuary.

This booklet contains the biographies of the six sons of our parish who died in that war. The back pages list the fifty-one men who also served. The names on that list, shaded in green, are brothers serving simultaneously. The names highlighted in blue are the sons of church leaders.



Second Lieutenant Alfred Thomas Crane

Born December 28, 1895
Died September 12, 1918 at Farges France
22 years old at time of his death

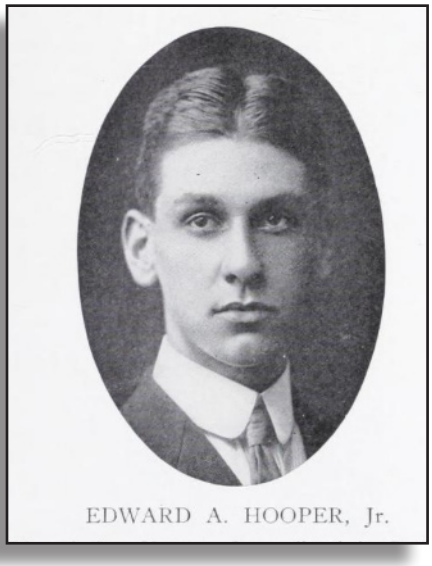
Alfred was the son of William and Sarah Rosa Crane of 405 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre. He worked with his father in the family contracting business located in Cambridge Ma. He was a graduate of the Mitchell Military Academy at Billerica Massachusetts.

Alfred was assigned to the 302nd Infantry Regiment, 76th Division and boarded the overseas ship, Aquitania, out of Hoboken, New Jersey, July 5, 1918.

He died in France on September 12, 1918. His memorial service was held at Trinity Church Newton Centre on June 1, 1918. He is buried in the family plot in Mount Auburn cemetery in Cambridge MA.

His older brother, Arthur H Crane, also served and survived WWI. He is listed in the Trinity Memorial WWI at the back of the church.

Four months after Alfred's death, the *Newton Graphic* newspaper published an obituary for his mother, Sarah R. Crane, stating she had never recovered from the death of her son, Alfred.



Battery A 1st Regiment
of the 101st Artillery

Corporal Edward Asa Hooper Jr.

Born September 10, 1897
Died July 29, 1918, in second battle
of the Marne.
26 years old at time of his death

Edward was a graduate of Newton Technical School, and attended Trinity Sunday School as a child. As a young man Edward was a Trinity Sunday School teacher and a Boy Scout troop leader. The *Newton Graphic* newspaper mentions he took his scouts and Sunday school students on hikes through the neighborhood woods — and that he stood 6'3" tall. Edward also attended Massachusetts Agricultural College. Being extremely patriotic, he enlisted as a member of the First Massachusetts Regiment of the National Guard. At the time of his death he was a corporal in Battery A of the 101st Artillery.

He was the second son of Trinity Parish to die in the war.
He left a wife, Ellen Hooper, who was living at 143 Walnut Street, Newtonville, at the time of his death.

Edward's memorial service was held on September 1, 1918, at Trinity Newton Centre.

Edward is buried at:
Oise-Aisne American Cemetery
Fere-en-Tardenois, France
Memorial Location
Plot B Row 25 Grave 23

Second Lieutenant
George Stewart Huggard

Born November 28, 1895
Died September 27, 1918 of pneumonia
A day after arriving in France
23 years old at time of his death

George Huggard lived at 58 Everett Street, Newton Centre, and was a graduate of Newton High School. In 1916 he went to Trinity College to study ministry. He left Trinity College in 1917 to join the ROTC at Harvard. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 5, 1917. He was then chosen to attend officers' training at Quantico, Virginia.

George's memorial service was held at Trinity Newton Centre on June 1, 1918. A detail of 30 Marines served as escort. They marched his body from the family home at Everett St. to Trinity Newton Centre church and then to Newton Cemetery.

The Huggard family's stained glass windows are the second set of three on the left as you enter Trinity's nave. George Stewart's window is the first of the set of three panes of stained glass; his parents' names are on the other two panels.

Plot 1-South F, 7
Newton Cemetery

Second Lieutenant
Leonard Jackson

Born January 14, 1897
Died August 25, 1918 near
the Vesle River France
Twenty-two years old at time of his death.

Leonard's family home was at 34 Ballard Street, Newton Centre. He was a graduate of Newton High School where he was athletic, excelling in hockey and tennis. Leonard entered Harvard University and joined their ROTC unit. From Harvard he enlisted in the army in January of 1918. He joined the 305th Infantry for service in France and was sent over in April 1918. He was reassigned to the 110th Infantry with a platoon he led into battle along the Vesle River.

Because Leonard Jackson's story is representative of the young men of our parish who served with commitment to the ideals of their time, I include his story as published in the *Newton Graphic* on September 27, 1918.

The story of the final action in which Lt. Jackson took part is told in a letter from his Company Commander to his parents.

"I deeply regret to report the death of your

son, Second Lieutenant L Jackson who was assigned for duty with Company M 110th Infantry. His death occurred Aug 24 in an action which took place near the Vesle River. Lieutenant Jackson's death was under the most honorable and heroic circumstances.

The Third Battalion of this regiment was ordered to capture the railroad line running along the river. Your son was in command of this platoon of Company M, one of the elements of the Third Battalion, and charged ahead with great heroism in the face of fire from machine guns hidden away in the tall grass near the railroad. A bullet wounded him in the head and he fell to the ground. His men rushed to his aid and bandaged his head. They thought he would retire and advised him to do so, but he arose and said "I can go ahead."

Though weakened he charged on, inspiring his men by his conduct, when he received other wounds from machine gun nests located in the same general section. These bullets struck him in the abdomen and he fell just as he approached the embankment of the railroad which the battalion was ordered to capture. He was borne in a litter back to the dressing station and surgical aid was given him, but this time the wounds were in vital parts and were too serious. He died shortly after.

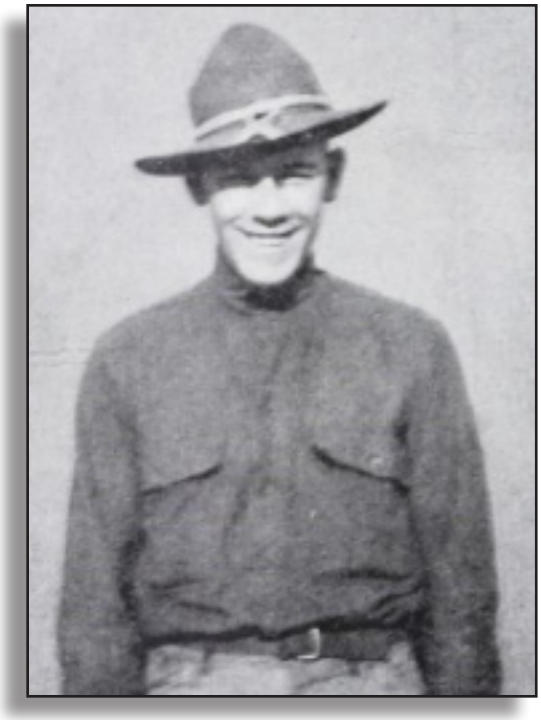
His body was taken to Courville and buried by me in a little cemetery of American soldiers. His remains were tenderly and reverently laid away with military honor and in conformity to the practice of Christian Church. The grave is carefully marked and its location has been filed among the records of the Graves Registration Service of the War Department by the Chaplain Department of this regiment. The markings are a cross on which is painted the name, rank and organization which stands at the head of the grave. At the foot a bottle is buried near the surface of the earth which contains the same record to be found on the cross.

It ought to be a comfort in your grief to know your son died in the truest conformity to the highest tradition of honor and heroism. The memory of him no doubt will be greatly cherished by those who fought with him. It is my prayer that God's grace will comfort you in your sad bereavement.

Very Sincerely,
Charles Scholl
Captain and Chaplain; 110th Infantry

Leonard Jackson received the Degree of A. B. from Harvard College, in 1919 posthumously.

On December 15, 1922, his remains were removed to his final resting place in the American Cemetery in Belleau Wood, Northern France.



Private 1st Class
George Thomas Maxwell Jr.

Born June 30, 1896
Died July 20, 1918, at Chateau Thierry
22 years old at time of his death

George lived at 310 Langley Road, Newton Centre, while working as a printer. For a time he also worked with his father in the milk business.

George enlisted in the Army on December 2, 1914, and served in the Infantry on the Mexican Border. After the outbreak of World War I, he reported for duty on July 25, 1917, and was assigned to Company C 101st Infantry, shipping overseas on September 7, 1917. George was killed in action as a Private First Class in Chateau-Thierry.

George Maxwell was the first son of Trinity Newton Centre to die in World War I. He was among the five young men honored in a Trinity Newton Centre memorial service held on October 27, 1918. He is buried in Newton Cemetery.

Newton Cemetery
Plot I,G,1

Private Edward Augustus Wight

Born April 15, 1890
Died October 24,1918
at Fort Omaha, Nebraska
28 years old at time of his death

Edward was born in Roxbury, MA, the son of Edward A and Rose (Coombs) Wight. He lived at 982 Beacon Street, Newton Centre. He was a draftsman and a mining engineer. He worked as an engineer for the coal mines in Pennsylvania and the copper mines in Mexico and Chile. During the Mexican Revolution he withstood, for a time, a siege at the company's property. He enlisted on December 19, 1917 in the School of Military Aeronautics in Princeton, New Jersey.

Edward was transferred on September 6, 1918, to the 1st Flying Cadet Company in Fort Omaha Nebraska for balloon training. Just as he was completing his balloon training course, Edward contracted pneumonia due to influenza and died.

His older brother by 3 years, Ralph Wight is also listed in our WWI memorial as one who served. Ralph Wight was a private in the 101st Engineers at the time of Edward's death. Ralph was in a hospital in France suffering the effects of chemical warfare having been gassed three months earlier.

Edward Augustus Wight was survived by his brother Ralph and his three sisters: Ethel and Dorothy Wight, and Mrs. Marion Dunnell.
As late as 1945 an Easter flower donation to Trinity Church was made in the name of Edward Augustus Wight and his sister Ethel Peabody Wight.

Edward died on October 24, 1918. The news of his death came too late for his name to be included in the Trinity memorial service of October 27, which honored the five soldiers that passed before him.
Edward Wight is buried in the Newton Cemetery family plot

My thanks to David Nincic for finding the only picture available- a passport picture of Edward Augustus Wight.

I have include a picture I found of his brother Ralph Wight who also served in the armed services and survived. I hope this image may serve as a family resemblance for us all.

List of men who served and survived WWI
Alphabetical by last name:

Armstrong Abel J
Armstrong Robert J ..... **Brothers**
Barrows Wilfred W
Barry Edward H

Blakemore Edric B
Blakemore James A ..... **Brothers**
Bogart John D
Briggs John Jr
Brigham Dwight S
Bundy Mahlon C ..... ** son of Jr Warden William H Bundy*
Burton Jr Robert A
Casson Charles P ..... **son of vestryman / WWI Memorial designer Robert Casson*

Claflin William W
Cordingly Joseph S Jr
Cornell Ward I
Coulter Robert
Crane Arthur H..... **Brother** *of Alfred T Crane who died Sept 12 1918*

Dyar Warren
Edwards Norman C
Fitch Robert C ..... **son of Warden Louis Fitch*
Freeman William M B
Green C Crosby . ..... ** son of vestryman Dr. D Crosby Greene*

Guiler James Jr
Hallett Joseph G ..... *Father served on the Parish House Committee*

Harrington Foster S

Hatch Paul
Hockridge Clarence M
Hockridge Harold D ..... **Brothers**

Hodges Arthur J
Holt Arthur R ..... ** son of vestryman Warner R Holt*
Hutchins Henry T
Johnston John H
Lancaster Walter B
Little George M
Liddle James A
Mansfield Karl
Masters Charles E
Mitchell Norman J
Simpkins Walter C
Sloane John R
Snow William B ..... **son of vestryman responsible for plumbing and heating system*

Spence James W
Rand Waldron H Jr
Rudd Tracey A

Underhill Donald P ..... **Brothers**
Underhill Frank H ** sons of Mrs. Marion Underhill- Pres. Of the Allies Relief*

Wellman Arthur O ..... **Brothers**
Wellman William A

George P Whitney

Ralph E Wight ..... **Brother** *of Edward Wight who died Oct 24 1918*

Wilkins Warde ..... **son of vestryman Clarence Wilkins*

Acknowledgments

Much gratitude to David Nincic for his research contributions, including retrieving Trinity's historical records from deep storage and facilitating this work.

Thanks to Aaron Friar, our Parish Administrator, for his expertise, time printing these pamphlets, and advice on page setup.